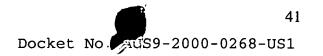Docket No. AUS9-2000-0268-US1

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR WORKLOAD
MANAGEMENT USING CLASS SHARES AND TIERS

An apparatus and method for performing workload management is provided. In particular, an apparatus and method for performing workload management using class shares and tiers is provided. In the apparatus and method, each process is associated with a particular class of workload. Each class has an associated number of shares representing the importance of the class relative to other classes. Each class, in turn, is associated with a particular tier of workload importance. Classes of processes compete with other classes of processes in their same tier for system resources based on the number of shares that they have. These shares are representative of the percentage of the system resource the process is provided relative to the other classes in the same tier. Classes in one tier compete with classes in other tiers for system resources based on the priority assigned to the tiers.